

Cable
Text:

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 00558
CXDOHA:

ACTION: AMB
INFO: RSO RAO P/E PAO MGT DCM

DISSEMINATION: AMB /1
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:JLEBARON
DRAFTED: AMB:JLEBARON
CLEARED: NONE

VZCZCDOI549
PP RUEHC RUEHEE RHMFISS RUCPDOE RHMFISS RBDHDZA
RUEAWJL RHMCSUU RUEKJCS RHMFISS RHMFISS RHMFISS
DE RUEHDO #0558/01 2171435
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 041435Z AUG 08
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8103
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHMFISS/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUCPDOE/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RBDHDZA/COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY
RUEAWJL/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/USCENTAF SHAW AFB SC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHMFISS/NGA HQ BETHESDA MD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DOHA 000558

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/04/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [AMGT](#) [KSPR](#) [ECON](#) [QA](#)
SUBJECT: CHARTING EMBASSY DOHA'S COURSE - SYNCHRONIZATION
BASED ON A SHARED INTERAGENCY VIEW OF QATAR

Classified By: Ambassador Joseph LeBaron, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) Key Points:

-- Embassy Doha's Country Team met July 30 to discuss the Embassy's plans for a September 2 interagency off-site on Qatar.

-- The off-site, under the leadership of Ambassador LeBaron, will gather Embassy Doha's Country Team, CENTCOM representatives, analysts from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and others in order to develop a common picture of a complex operating environment: Qatar.

-- The off-site will be the first step in a collaborative, interagency field process designed to synchronize the U.S. Government's programs and activities in Qatar, both classified and unclassified, military and civilian.

Qatar's Evolution

11. (C) Qatar is steadily emerging as a key regional partner for the United States - militarily and economically:

-- Qatar hosts approximately 10,000 U.S. military forces at two major installations. These forces are heavily involved in the conduct of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, especially the air wars.

-- Over 15,000 private U.S. citizens reside in Qatar. An estimated 200 more arrive every month.

-- Qatar hosts branch campuses of six prominent U.S. universities, including Georgetown and Carnegie Mellon, ensuring that its role in educating the region's next generation of leaders will only grow.

-- Qatar is on course to become soon the richest country in the world on a per capita income basis - even on the basis of all 1.7 million residents, not just the tiny group of Qatari citizens who constitute perhaps just 15% of the total population. (So sensitive is this demographic disparity that precise statistics are not released by the government.)

-- Qatar is also on course to become a significant supplier of energy to the United States -- of LNG, specifically. This recent trend is expected by Department of Energy officials to continue to strengthen over the next 20 years.

-- Qatar's sovereign wealth fund, estimated at upwards of \$60 billion, is expected to grow rapidly as Qatar's energy revenues escalate, making Qatar a potentially major source of direct inward investment for the United States.

-- With Qatar's recent diplomatic success in fashioning a critically important agreement among the competing factions in Lebanon, Qatar's diplomatic role in the region is gradually growing.

-- Qatar is the home of Al Jazeera which, despite growing competition, continues to command the largest audience share in the Middle East) in the range of 50 million Arabic speakers. Despite its often unbalanced reporting of U.S. policy, this is an audience the U.S. can't afford to ignore.

An Interagency Field Perspective of Qatar's Evolution

12. (U) The interagency off-site will attempt to identify the most important and powerful trends in the evolution of Qatar: in Qatar's diplomacy; military and security posture; economic development and trade relationships; society, politics, and culture; and physical environment.

13. (U) Even more ambitiously, the off-site will try to project the course of these trends over the next 36 months. Can we expect the trends we have been able to identify to strengthen, weaken, or remain essentially the same? Will new trends emerge that we can begin to identify and understand? How will these trends interact with one another, directly and indirectly?

14. (U) Another major goal of the off-site will be to put the traditional tools of diplomacy -- relationship building and personal contact development, commercial advocacy, public diplomacy, reporting and analysis -- within this strategic, interagency context.

15. (U) Most important, the off-site will attempt to determine how the USG can use its understanding of these trends to achieve its strategic, operational, and tactical objectives in Qatar, using the skills and resources available to the Country Team.

Synchronizing the Country Team

16. (U) Building on the insights and conclusions of the off-site, DCM Michael Ratney will take the lead in developing, in close consultation and collaboration with other members of the Country Team, a short, classified, interagency planning document synchronizing the programs and activities of the whole government represented by the Country Team.

¶17. (U) The synchronization plan will not replace or alter any existing planning document, including the unclassified Mission Strategic Plan. Also, it will recognize and respect the complementary role within Qatar of the Embassy Country Team's strategic partner, the U.S. Central Command.

¶18. (C) The plan will seek to synchronize -- to arrange in space, time, and purpose for maximum effect -- the plans and programs of the various elements of the Country Team. The plan will include as much as possible the sensitive, classified activities of the Country Team that cannot be captured in the several unclassified planning documents that exist across the Country Team, while remaining mindful of compartmented activities and considerations of sources and methods.

¶19. (U) The plan will be adaptive in nature and flexible enough to accommodate whatever shifts in emphasis or content are required by parent agencies and departments in the USG's goals and objectives in Qatar.

¶10. (U) With this cable, Embassy Doha begins a series of cables and reports informing addressees of the status and effects of our collaborative, integrated synchronization process underway as assessed by the Country Team.

¶11. (U) The Country Team has cleared this cable.
LeBaron